

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2040

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 2040

LIMDIS

S/S FOR CARTER LIAISON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US QA
SUBJ: VISIT TO QATAR OF FORMER AMBASSADOR AKINS

REF: STATE 290703

1. FORMER AMBASSADOR AKINS VISITED DOHA NOV 24-28 AT INVITATION OF GOQ. AKINS HAS FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES HERE, SPECIFICALLY FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM. HE VISITED DOHA LAST SPRING SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE, ALSO AT GOQ'S INVITATION. DURING NOV 24-28 STAY, AKINS HAD MEETINGS WITH AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, ALL OF WHICH I ATTENDED. MEDIA GAVE FEATURED COVERAGE TO AKINS' VISIT.

2. AKINS EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY TO ALL CONTACTS AND MEDIA THAT HE WAS A PRIVATE PERSON, NOT RPT NOT A REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER; THAT HE CARRIED NO RPT NO MESSAGES FROM CARTER; THAT HE HAD NO RPT NO OFFICIAL STATUS; THAT ANY VIEWS EXPRESSED WERE HIS OWN, AND THAT HE COULD NOT COMMIT PRESIDENT-ELECT TO ANYTHING. AKINS POINTED OUT PRESIDENT-ELECT'S FREQUENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PRESIDENT UNTIL JAN 20 AND THEREFORE IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR HIM TO DELVE INTO USG BUSINESS AT THIS STAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DOHA 02040 301233Z

3. AKINS ALSO INFORMED HIS CONTACTS THAT HE HAD WORKED IN

CARTER CAMPAIGN AS INDEPENDENT VOLUNTEER AND HAD AND WAS ADVISING CARTER AND STAFF ON MID EAST AND ENERGY. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT HIS VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS WERE HIS OWN AND PRESIDENT-ELECT WAS NOT RPT NOT COMMITTED TO ANY OF THEM. AKINS SAID THAT HE IS IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT AND HIS STAFF, WHO HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO THEM ON HIS RETURN TO US ANY VIEWS WHICH AREA LEADERS CARED TO HAVE PASSED ON. AKINS STATED HE WOULD BE REPORTING TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON HIS RETURN TO US.

4. RE GOQ VIEWS WHICH AKINS ASKED TO CONVEY, AMIR AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAID NOTHING EXCEPTIONAL OR THAT WE HAVE NOT HEARD AND REPORTED BEFORE. THEY STRESSED URGENCY AND ESSENTIALITY OF US PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE IN SETTLEMENT OF MID EAST CRISIS WHICH MUST INCLUDE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF '67 BORDERS AND SOLVING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BY CREATION OF SOME SORT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. THEY WARNED THAT OUR FAILURE TO MOVE SITUATION QUICKLY TOWARD EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH WAS JUST IN ARAB EYES COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE OVERALL US POSITION IN ARAB WORLD AND LEAD TO RENEWED HOSTILITIES, WITH ALL DANGERS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABLE THAT THIS INVOLVED.

5. RE OIL PRICES, AKINS MADE PRECISE POINT IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL, I.E. THAT ANY INCREASE AT ALL WOULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION BOTH IN DCS AND LDCS. FURTHER RE OIL/ENERGY ISSUE, AKINS OUTLINED HIS PUBLISHED AND WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON NECESSITY FOR AND FEASIBILITY OF FORMULA FOR ASSURING STABLE OIL PRICES FOR CONSUMERS TIED TO STABLE PRICES FOR MANUFACTURED IMPORTS OF PRODUCERS. HE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED THIS AS HIS OWN IDEA WHICH HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING WITH OR SUPPORT FROM EITHER USG OR PRESIDENT-ELECT.

6. COMMENT: I ATTENDED AKINS' MEETINGS WITH AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS BECAUSE I BELIEVE MY PRESENCE SERVED OVERALL US INTERESTS AND ACCORDS WITH SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH AND FACILITATE TRANSITION PROCESS. AKINS' VISIT WAS DEFINITELY SEEN BY GOQ AS PART OF TRANSITION AND THIS IMPRESSION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DOHA 02040 301233Z

WHETHER REAL OR IMAGINED, IS POSITIVE IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS SINCE HE WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED HERE. SHOW OF INTEREST BY

PRESIDENT-ELECT THROUGH AKINS IN EYES OF AMIR AND OTHER SENIOR

OFFICIALS WAS TIMELY, WELL-RECEIVED AND APPRECIATED, AND THEREFORE DEFINITE PLUS IN US-GOQ RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE GOQ FREQUENTLY COMPLAINS THAT WE PAY IT INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION,.

PAGANELLI

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